Government of India receives from State Government periodical reports about quality control and black-marketing of fertilisers. During 1991-92, when the dual pricing was introduced only Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported 16 cases of bleckmarketing of fertilizers.

(c): The price of fertiliser is regulated under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the State Governments are empowered to take legal action in cases of sale of fertilisers at prices higher than the maximum fixed statutorily. Surprise raids/ checks are conducted by State Governments from time to time. Seizure of stocks, suspension/cancellation of dealership, launching of criminal proceeding etc., are some of the measures taken against the offenders.

Oil Palm Plantation

*418. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing financial assistance to States for raising oil palm trees;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to each of the oil palm growing States during 1991-92;

(c) the area under oil palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh at present and the area proposed to be brought under such plantation during the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a factory for the extraction of palmolien oil in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The financial assistance so far provided by Government of India to the oil palm growing States during 1991-92 is as under:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	311.55
Kamataka	350.51
Maharashtra	114.61
Gujarat	31.02

(c): So far an area of around 1600 ha. has been brought under oil palm cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. It has been proposed to bring another 2000 ha. under oil palm plantation during the current year.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. One palm oil extraction plan of one MT FFB per hour capacity is under construction at Pedavegi in West Godavari district in Andhara Pradesh. Another oil palm processing plant of suitable capacity will be established in joint sector under oil palm demonstration project.

Production and Storage Technologies

*419. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI MORESHEAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to further improve the technologies of production and storage and also to provide adequate marketing facilities to the farmer; and